

This is the third in a three-part series highlighting the great work accomplished by Eugene Park Stewards adoption groups throughout the parks system. Eugene Park Stewards facilitates and supports volunteers who provide vital stewardship to more than 70 developed parks and thousands of acres of natural areas. Wrapping up this series is the South Region Volunteer Coordinator, Carrie Karl -

Volunteers Continue a Century of Support for Hendricks Park as a Labor of Love



Hendricks Park is Eugene's first public park and like many other special places, has its devoted visitors and volunteers who help care for it. Continuing the legacy of time-honored support this park has received for more than a century, today's Hendricks Park volunteers are connected to this place by their heart strings. If you ask a volunteer on any given day what motivates them to work in this park, you are likely to hear a simple response - because I love it.

Over the past decade, care of the park has been a partnership between Parks and Open Space and the Friends of Hendricks Park (FoHP), a volunteer organization founded in 2001 to provide stewardship for Hendricks Park through education, restoration and community support. This group of volunteers performs regular maintenance in many areas of the park and has helped establish the Native Plant Garden, Oak Knoll Trail, Overlook bench, Moon Terrace, new entryway signs and kiosks for the Rhododendron Garden and Forest.

Since being established in 1951, many Rhododendrons and compatible ornamental species have been planted making the Rhododendron Garden a major attraction for visitors from all over the world. The "Tuesday Morning Regulars" meet there every Tuesday morning for 37 weeks, spring through fall. This year alone, these tenacious gardeners have contributed over 1,000 hours of volunteer labor removing weeds, planting trees and shrubs, and spreading mulch. "I love this garden," a Tuesday Regular said. "I love the people. I love that they talk plants and use their names."

The 65-acre Forest is host to many volunteer work parties, including MLK Day of Service each January, where this year, 85 community members came out in force. FoHP and Eugene Park Stewards also host monthly work parties, focusing on removing ivy from the trees and forest floor, Herb Robert removal, continued restoration in the Oak Knoll and trail maintenance. "I love this park," a regular Forest volunteer said. "I love coming here on Saturday morning. It's a great way to start the weekend and it is great exercise."

Hendricks Park is an island of open space surrounded by neighborhoods and bisected by city streets. As the park evolves, the needs for restoration and management become more acute. The continued commitment of volunteers, visionaries and dedicated staff will ensure the park is preserved for generations to come. Individuals, clubs and business volunteers who like to work outdoors can find their place with the Friends of Hendricks Park or Eugene Park Stewards. To join the Friends of Hendricks Park visit, www.friendsofhendrickspark.org. To learn more about local park adoptions or upcoming Eugene Park Stewards events, please contact us at eugeneparkvolunteers@ci.eugene.or.us. For volunteer projects in the South Region, contact Carrie Karl at 541-682-4850 or carrie.l.karl@ci.eugene.or.us.